



Alabama Beach Mouse

(Peromyscus polionotus ammobates)

Issue

The Alabama beach mouse is federally listed as endangered because of impacts to its habitat.

Background



USFWS

The range of the Alabama beach mouse historically included much of the Fort Morgan Peninsula on the Alabama Gulf coast and extended from Ono Island to Fort Morgan. Coastal development, including residential, commercial, and roadway construction, has fragmented and destroyed habitat used by this species. Hurricanes, tropical storms, and dune use by pedestrians have also damaged or destroyed sand dunes and related habitats. Stalking by domestic and wild cats as well as other animals plus competition from other rodents have also contributed to Alabama beach mouse declines and losses.

The Alabama beach mouse is one of several subspecies of old field mice living only in coastal sand dune areas. These small light-colored mice burrow and excavate nests in dunes and are primarily active at night. Their diet consists of various plant seeds and insects. They prefer sand-covered slopes with patches of sea oats, beach grass, other grasses and herbs, as well as interior sand dune ridges.

Ways to help Alabama beach mouse populations recover include:

- Install snow fences to aid in rebuilding dunes.
- Plant sea oats, bluestem, and other native coastal vegetation to restore dunes.
- Maintain habitat character and connections during construction and land development.
- Limit impacts to dune areas and provide dune walkovers for beach access.
- Control outdoor and wild cats in beach mouse habitat to reduce their stalking of beach mice.
- Bag and properly dispose of garbage to prevent house mice or other rodent populations from becoming established and competing with beach mice.
- Avoid using poisons, snap traps, glue boards and similar techniques outdoors in beach mouse habitat.

Further studies are needed to better understand the Alabama beach mouse and the sand dune ecosystem. Such information is vital for protecting, conserving and recovering this unique animal and the habitat crucial to its survival.

For More Information

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